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Lost Structures of Old Rutland: A Calendar



RUTLAND IN RETROSPECT

The Verder Building that housed August Olson's store on the northwest corner of Merchants Row and West Street was photographed in April 1922. Shortly after that the Marble Savings Bank replaced it.

About the Author

Jacob Sherman is the reference and technical services librarian at the Rutland Free Library. He also has served as secretary of the Rutland Historical Society and is chair of its Publications Committee. His most recent contribution to the Society's publications was "People Make A Library: The Rutland Free Library at 120 Years": *Rutland Historical Society Quarterly* (Vol. 36 No. 3).

Covers:

Front: Verder Building (housing Olson's Store) – City

The Verder Building occupied the northwest corner of Merchants Row and West Street in April 1922. The rather weather-beaten structure housed numerous businesses, the most prominent of which was run by August Olson, who sold magazines and newspapers along with cigars, tobacco, and confectionery from his shop. Above Olson, was Victor A. LaVene, tailor, serving both ladies and gents. Just to the north of Olson was Bruzza's Ice Cream Parlor run by Frank Bruzzo, who was also proprietor of the Boston Fruit Market. Next to Olson's on the West Street side were Frank P. Riggs, shoe repairing, and the Gainaday Electric Co. Further west O.S. Frost operated his Central Creamery in a small, one-story building. Shortly after this the corner would change forever as the old building came down to make room for the new Marble Savings Bank.

Back: Rutland Railroad Second Roundhouse – City

In late July of 1899 the Rutland roundhouse, which had served the Rutland Railroad for 35 years, was nearing its end. The structure had been built in 1864 after the first roundhouse had been destroyed by fire. Its wooden dome was 80 feet in diameter and 50 feet in height, easily the most prominent landmark in that part of the city. Built for the engines of 1864 it could no longer comfortably accommodate the bigger, heavier rolling stock of the turn of the century. On 27 July 1899, big new freight locomotives hooked up to inch-thick wire cables pulled out the supports that held the dome and it crashed down in a great cloud of dust and soot. Bricks from the old roundhouse were used to complete construction of the new roundhouse that had a larger turntable and longer stalls for the engines but was a shed-like structure with a pitched roof that lacked the drama of its predecessor. Describing the demolition, a *Herald* writer was sure he overheard two of the smaller, veteran engines talking to each other and reminiscing about how much they would miss nights under the old dome.

Lost Structures of Old Rutland: A Calendar

By Jacob Sherman

January: 1784 Statehouse / Courthouse – City

This old wooden frame building built in 1784 served as the Rutland County Courthouse from 1784 to 1792. It was situated on the north side of West Street just west of the present National Guard Armory. The Vermont legislature met there in October 1784, and again in October 1786. The first U.S. District Court session was held there in May 1791. The structure had only two rooms. The west room served as the courtroom and the east room, which had only a dirt floor, as the grand and petit jury room. In November 1786 the courthouse was the scene of the Anti-Court Riot during which a mob of 600 men and boys sought to intimidate court officials and stop proceedings against debtors. In 1792 a more “modern” courthouse was built on South Main Street. In 1912 Doctor Bellerose purchased the old structure and tore it down that spring to make way for a family residence. The Daughters of the American Revolution made strenuous efforts to preserve it as a museum but failed to arouse sufficient interest.

February: Proctor Railroad Station

This 1912 photo shows the second railroad station in Proctor to occupy this site. The railroad first came through Sutherland Falls in 1850. At first the trains were served only by a flat platform but at an unknown later date a station was constructed. This structure was destroyed by fire in 1885 and replaced by the station pictured. This station served the new town of Proctor for about the next 75 years. In the background is the Vermont Marble Company Cooperative Store that was reduced to ashes by a blazing inferno in 1913. The 1927 flood caused considerable damage to the station. Somehow the station survived until 1965 when it was razed.

March: First Episcopal Church On North Main Street – City

The first Episcopal Church in Rutland stood on the west side of North Main Street just about on the site of the present Wendy's Restaurant. It was an elegant building much in keeping with the Federal style homes of that era that lined that stretch of Main Street. Construction of the church began in 1832 and was completed the following spring. Bishop John

Henry Hopkins, first bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, consecrated it on 29 May 1833. The parcel of land on which the church was built was acquired for \$450 and the cost of construction was \$1700. Another \$400 was required for the organ. Among the subscribers were such prominent citizens as Charles K. Williams, Robert Temple, Reuben Thrall, Moses Strong, William Fay, Moses Lester, and George C. Hodges. The Rev. John A. Hicks served the congregation for 28 years following its founding. By the Civil War the congregation had outgrown the facility and plans were underway to construct a new one but the war put these on hold. In 1863 land was purchased at the corner of Church and West Streets and two years later a new edifice was completed. The old church was sold in 1867 and demolished the following year.

April: Irene's Food Shop – Route 4, West Rutland

Irene's Food Shop, just inside the West Rutland line, was a landmark along the north side of Route 4 between Center Rutland and West Rutland during the 1940s. Patrick F. McCormack and his wife Irene of West Rutland started and operated the business as a sandwich shop that also offered pies that Mrs. McCormack made. In the summer they depended heavily on the ice cream trade. Mr. McCormack owned and operated the Clarendon Marble Company between West Rutland and Clarendon Springs but by the late 1930s the Depression was causing distress in the marble industry and the McCormacks turned to the restaurant business to supplement their income. Marble from his operations had graced the entrance hall of the National Gallery of Art in Washington. Thus it was no surprise that Irene's Food Shop was built of brick face marble, while inside the floors were marble. Tabletops were verde antique marble. The unusual rounded ends of the building were parts of an old bus. The McCormacks operated Irene's from 1940 through 1946 after which it was sold to Wayne A. Barrett who continued to run it through 1949. In 1950 it was sold to Mrs. Frank (Molly) Janas who renamed it Jenny's Sugar House.

May: Leonard's Mill – Mill Village

On 20 May 1925, the *Rutland Herald* reported that the old Glen gristmill, a Mill Village landmark for nearly half a century, had on the previous evening suddenly and unexpectedly toppled into the millpond. Not thirty minutes before it plunged into the cold waters it had been filled with customers buying grain from the proprietress, Mrs. Mattie E. Leonard. No one, according to the article, felt any "premonitory tremblings." Fortunately, all got out safely with

their loads of feed. It was about 6:30 p.m. when Mrs. Leonard, whose home was on an elevation above the mill, saw it slip into the pond taking with it a shed and a storehouse. Her loss from the calamity included five tons of grain, a carriage, a buggy and express wagon, several sleighs and sleds and tools, all amounting to \$500. An automobile truck and a pleasure car owned by Sidney Butterfield, together valued at \$400, also sank with the buildings. It was believed that ice, breaking up in the springtime, had weakened the supports of the structure causing it to give way with a mighty groan. The old mill had been erected in 1877 but no grinding had been done there since 1915.

June: Clark Block – Downtown Rutland

During the 1850s the Clark Block occupied the southeast corner of Merchants Row and West Street. Wright and Young built The Gryphon Corner Block, as distinguished from the Gryphon Block on West Street, in 1913-1914, thus replacing the old Clark Block. Clark and Brothers, watches and jewelry, as well as the Ross Dry Goods store occupied the ground floor of the old Clark Block. The second floor housed a millinery shop as well as a fancy goods shop. To the south were the Merchants Exchange Building; B. M. Bailey, jewelers; and the three-storied Cramton Block. The Cramton block was burned, not once but twice, in a series of disastrous fires in 1868 as a group of arsonists lit up the town. The buildings of the Rutland Railroad can be seen in the distance.

July: The Fletcher D. Proctor House – Proctor

Not a trace remains of the magnificent Queen Anne style mansion that was the home of Fletcher Dutton Proctor and his family. The multi-gabled home with its sweeping veranda stood on a bluff overlooking the Otter Creek in the vicinity of the present Marble Bridge and town library. Fletcher was the older son of Sen. Redfield Proctor, founder of the Vermont Marble Company. By the time he was 25 he had been named superintendent of operations. By age 29 he was elected president of the company, a position he occupied until his death. Fletcher's energy and business acumen were widely credited with building Vermont Marble Company into the world's largest concern in that industry. At the same time he launched a distinguished political career, culminating in his election as governor of Vermont for the term 1906-1908. Unfortunately, illness struck him down in the prime of life just short of age 51. The Vermont press universally hailed him for his contributions as an industrialist and progressive political leader. The magnificent home was torn down after World War II.

August: The House of Correction – City

The original Rutland County House of Correction was erected in 1877-78 on land adjacent to the East Creek just west of the village line. The cost was \$60,000. The structure was originally intended to be a workhouse but the purpose was changed by the 1878 session of the Legislature. With the arrival of the new facility came a major change in the way prisoners were treated. Previously inmates had been confined together in a large room and offered no constructive activity. Now, emphasis was placed on clean conditions, wholesome food, and regular work. The House of Correction had a north and south wing, a kitchen, chapel, guardroom, and 75 cells, four of which were covered with heavy steel for confining unmanageables. In 1879 a 120-foot workshop was added and in 1898 a dining room. Between 1878 and 1900 there were 6,118 admissions, some for “offenses” such as cursing or swearing, indulging in games of chance on the Sabbath, and riding a bicycle on the sidewalk. Prisoners were transferred to the facility at Windsor when the House of Correction ceased operation in 1919. In the 1920s it became a Women’s Reformatory. Years later the complex was razed and the present Marble Valley Correctional Center built on the same site.

- September: Delaware & Hudson Railway Station – West Rutland

The Delaware & Hudson Railway Company’s depot and freight station in West Rutland was constructed in 1908. It replaced an earlier station, a large brick structure on Barnes Street that had been built in 1857 and destroyed by fire in 1878. By the early 1970s the West Rutland depot was handling freight only, the company having dropped passenger service some years previously. On the afternoon of Wednesday 2 May 1973, plumbers were using an acetylene torch to connect the station’s plumbing to the town’s new sewer main. Gas leaking from the tank ignited when the torch was switched on and flames quickly engulfed the 65-year-old wood structure. Officials of the Delaware & Hudson rushed to the scene from Rutland where ironically on that date they had gathered to celebrate the line’s 150th anniversary with a special display train that housed old railroad memorabilia including a replica of the 1829 “Stourbridge Lion,” the first steam engine to operate in America. Freight records were lost in the blaze but there were no injuries. In the period that followed, the freight agent, James Niles, was temporarily housed in a caboose. The station was never rebuilt.

October: The Rutland Wrapper and Skirt Company - City

The Rutland Wrapper and Skirt Company building stood on the northwest corner of Court Square where the Rutland branch of the Factory Point National Bank stands today. Originally built in 1798, the building served many different roles. Around the turn of the twentieth century this building housed the Rutland Wrapper and Skirt Company that was owned and operated by Alonzo H. Colvin and employed about 125 laborers. According to an elderly Rutland woman, in 1903 her mother went to work in the factory as a 14-year-old girl, working from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and earning \$4.00 per week to produce "ladies' dress skirts, walkskirts, petticoats, and shirt waist suits." By 1907 the operation had been taken over by E. Lewis Olney and renamed the Rutland Garment Company. By the mid-1920s two additions to the garment company had been built on West Street. Later the garment factory shut down and the buildings were converted to apartments. The complex grew progressively shabbier until its demolition in 1996.

November: Center Rutland Highway and Trolley Bridges

The iron highway and the old iron trolley bridges survived the flood of 1927 until the new road to West Rutland was constructed in 1958-1959. The bridge on the left was the highway bridge. The bridge on the right was the old trolley bridge that had gone into disuse since the demise of the trolley in the early 1920s. Original plans were to save the old trolley bridge as a footbridge but apparently this plan proved impractical and a sidewalk was included in the new concrete bridge.

December: Swift and Company Wholesale Meat Plant - City

This building was built in the 1880s. It was first called the Vermont Beef Company, a wholesale beef distributor for the Swift Company of Chicago. About 1907 it became Swift and Company. The photo is from about 1910. The man on the left is John H. Williams, the manager. The man on the right is Daniel Callahan, a meat cutter. The white horses were always used for their delivery wagons, undoubtedly as a testimony to the purity of their meats. In 1958 the city acquired the buildings in that area and demolished them for a new municipal parking area that was constructed in 1959.



This wooden frame building served as the Rutland County Courthouse from 1784 to 1792. The Vermont legislature met there in 1784 and 1786. Built in 1784, it was located just west of the present National Guard Armory on the north side of West Street. It was torn down in 1912 to make room for a home.

JANUARY 2007

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



This is a 1912 photo of the second Proctor railroad station that was built some time after the first station burned in 1885. Although considerably damaged in the flood of 1927, it survived until it was razed in 1965.

FEBRUARY 2007

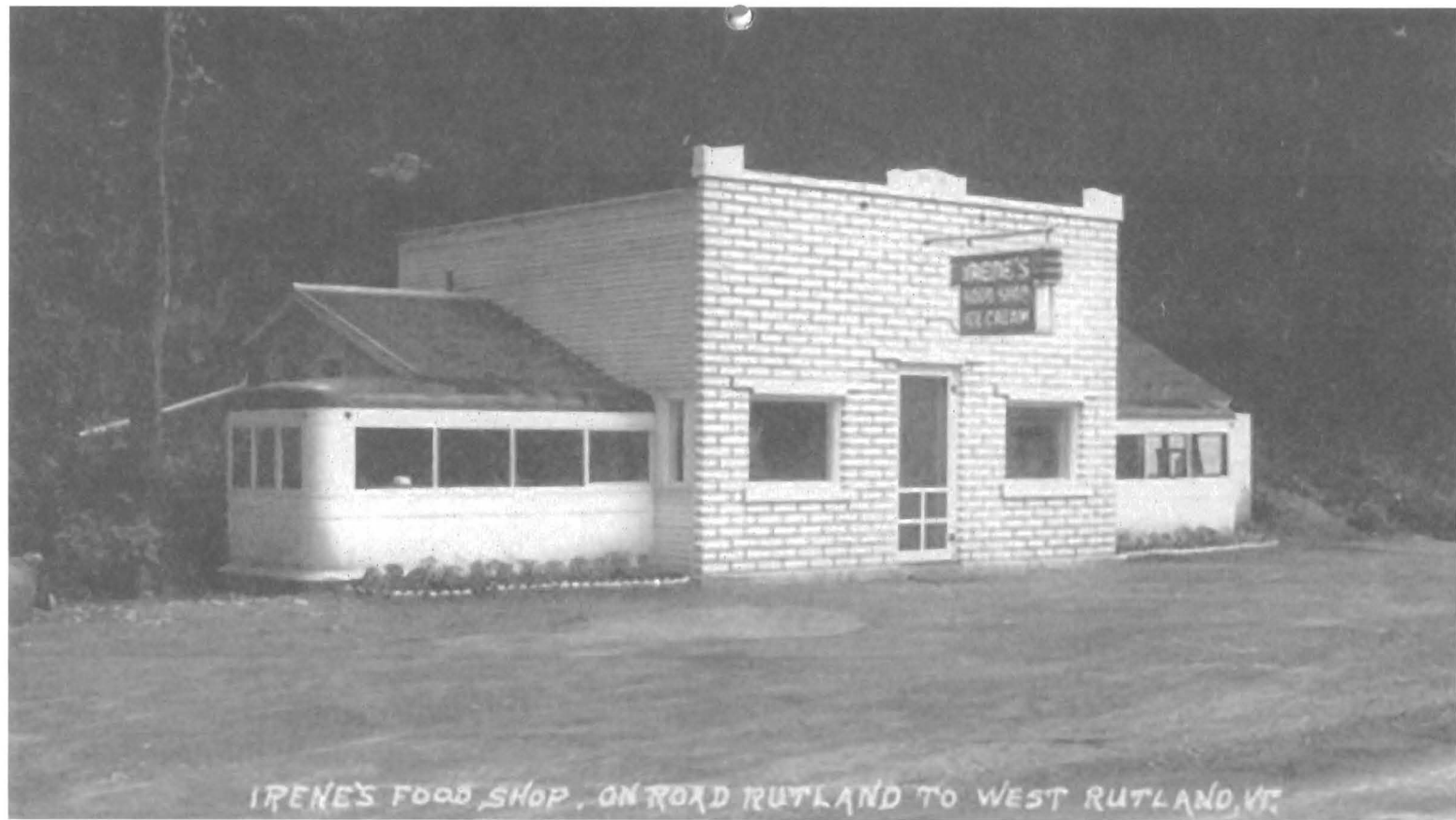
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17
18	19 President's Day	20	21 Ash Wednesday	22 Washington's Traditional Birthday	23	24
25	26	27	28			



The first Episcopal Church building was begun in 1832 and finished in 1833. It was located on the west side of Main Street near the site of the present Wendy's Restaurant. The church was sold in 1867 and demolished in 1868.

MARCH 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Daylight Savings Begins	12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



IRENE'S FOOD SHOP, ON ROAD RUTLAND TO WEST RUTLAND, VT.

Patrick McCormack built Irene's Food Shop shortly before World War II just inside the West Rutland line on the north side of Route 4 between Center and West Rutland. The McCormack Family specialized in ice cream sales from 1940 to 1946. The rounded ends of the edifice were parts of an old bus.

APRIL 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Palm Sunday	2	3 Passover	4	5	6 Good Friday	7
8 Easter	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



The old Glen gristmill suddenly and unexpectedly toppled into the millpond on the evening of 20 May 1925. Customers buying grain had left the building just 30 minutes prior to its collapse. The mill had been erected in 1877 but no grinding had been done since 1915.

MAY 2007

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16	17	18	19 Armed Forces Day
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		



The Clark Block on the southeast corner of West Street and Merchants Row was built in the 1850s. In 1913 – 1914 Wright and Young replaced this building with a new building called the Gryphon Corner Block. They had previously built the Gryphon Block on West Street. The two buildings are now called The Gryphon.

JUNE 2007

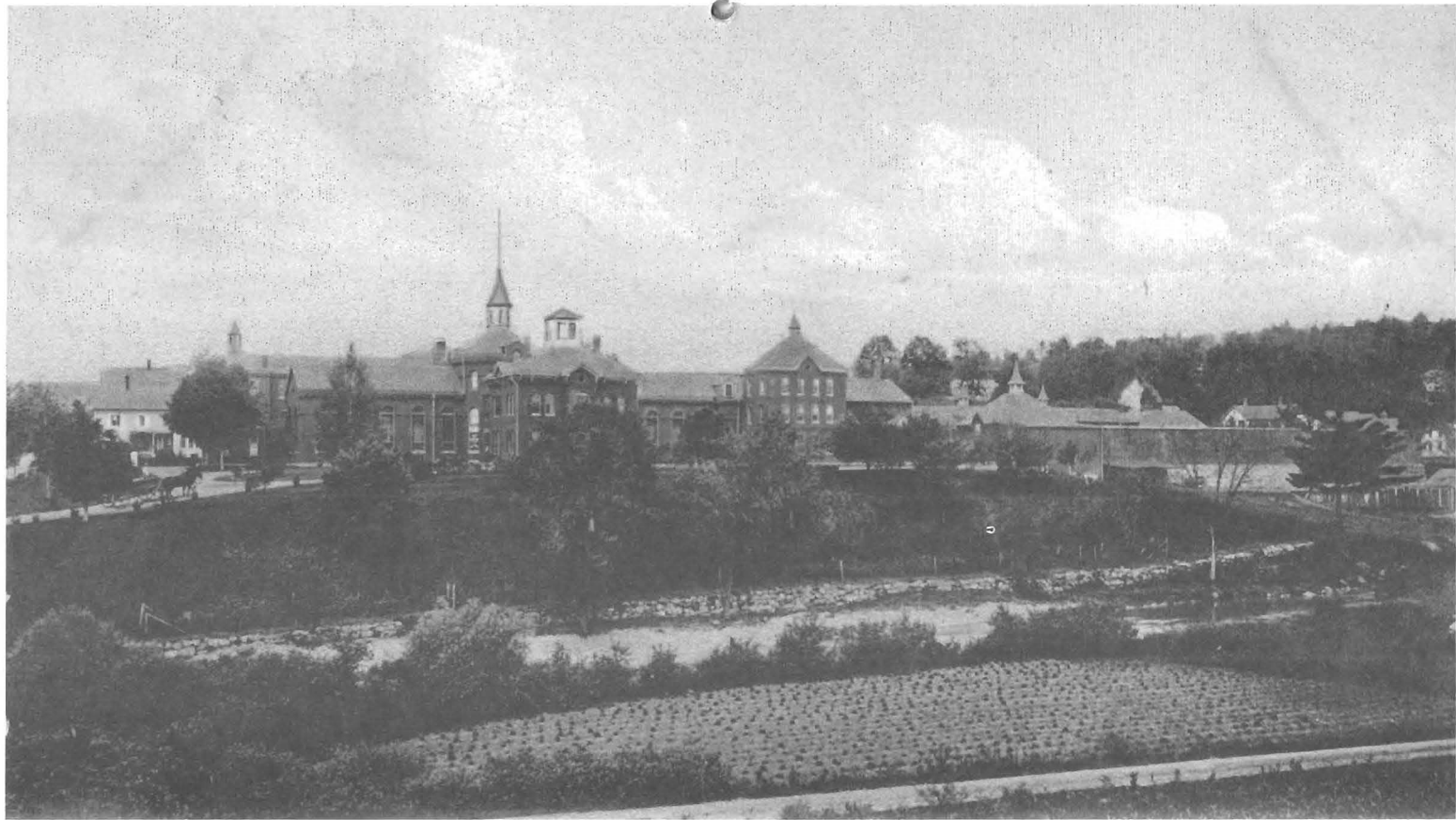
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Flag Day	22	23
Father's Day	24	25	26	27	28	29
					30	



This magnificent Queen Anne style mansion was the home of Fletcher Dutton Proctor. Fletcher was the older son of Redfield Proctor. By age 29 he had become president of the Vermont Marble Company. From 1906 – 1908 he was Governor of Vermont. The home, just east of the town library, was torn down after World War II.

JULY 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



The Rutland House of Correction was built in 1877 – 1878 on the north side of State Street, just west of the East Creek. In 1919 it ceased operation and prisoners were moved to Windsor. In the 1920s it became a women's reformatory until the 1960s. A new correctional facility now occupies the site.

AUGUST 2007

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

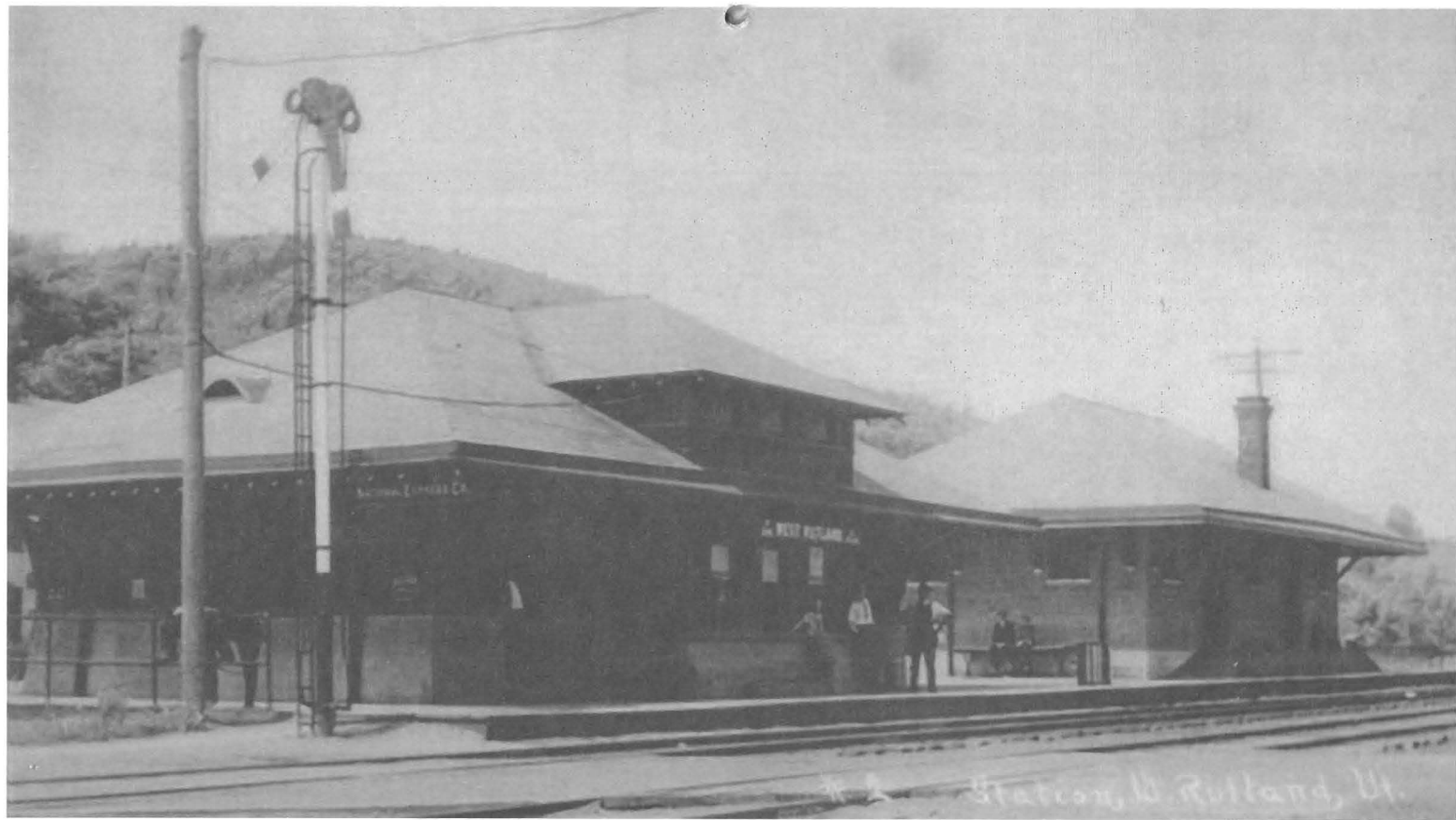
WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
				Battle of Bennington Day		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



West Rutland's second depot was built in 1908. On the afternoon of 2 May 1973, plumbers were using an acetylene torch to connect the station's plumbing to the town's new sewer main. Gas leaking from the tank ignited and flames quickly destroyed the station. It was never rebuilt.

SEPTEMBER 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 Labor Day	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Rosh Hashanah	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Yom Kippur
30						



The Rutland Skirt and Wrapper Company building stood on the northwest corner of Court Square where the Factory Point National Bank is today. By the mid-1920s two additions had been made to the building. Later the complex was converted to the Olney apartments. It was all demolished in 1996.

OCTOBER 2007

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Columbus Day	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Halloween			



The iron highway bridge (on the left) and the old trolley bridge (on the right) survived the flood of 1927. When the new road to West Rutland was constructed in 1958 – 1959 the bridges were replaced by a concrete span.

NOVEMBER 2007

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

				1	2	3
4 Daylight Savings Ends	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Veteran's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving Day	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



The Swift Meat Company building was built in the 1880s. In 1958 the city acquired the buildings in the area and demolished them for a new municipal parking area that was constructed in 1959. This 1910 photo shows John H. Williams, the manager (on the left) and Daniel Callahan, a meat cutter (on the right).

DECEMBER 2007

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

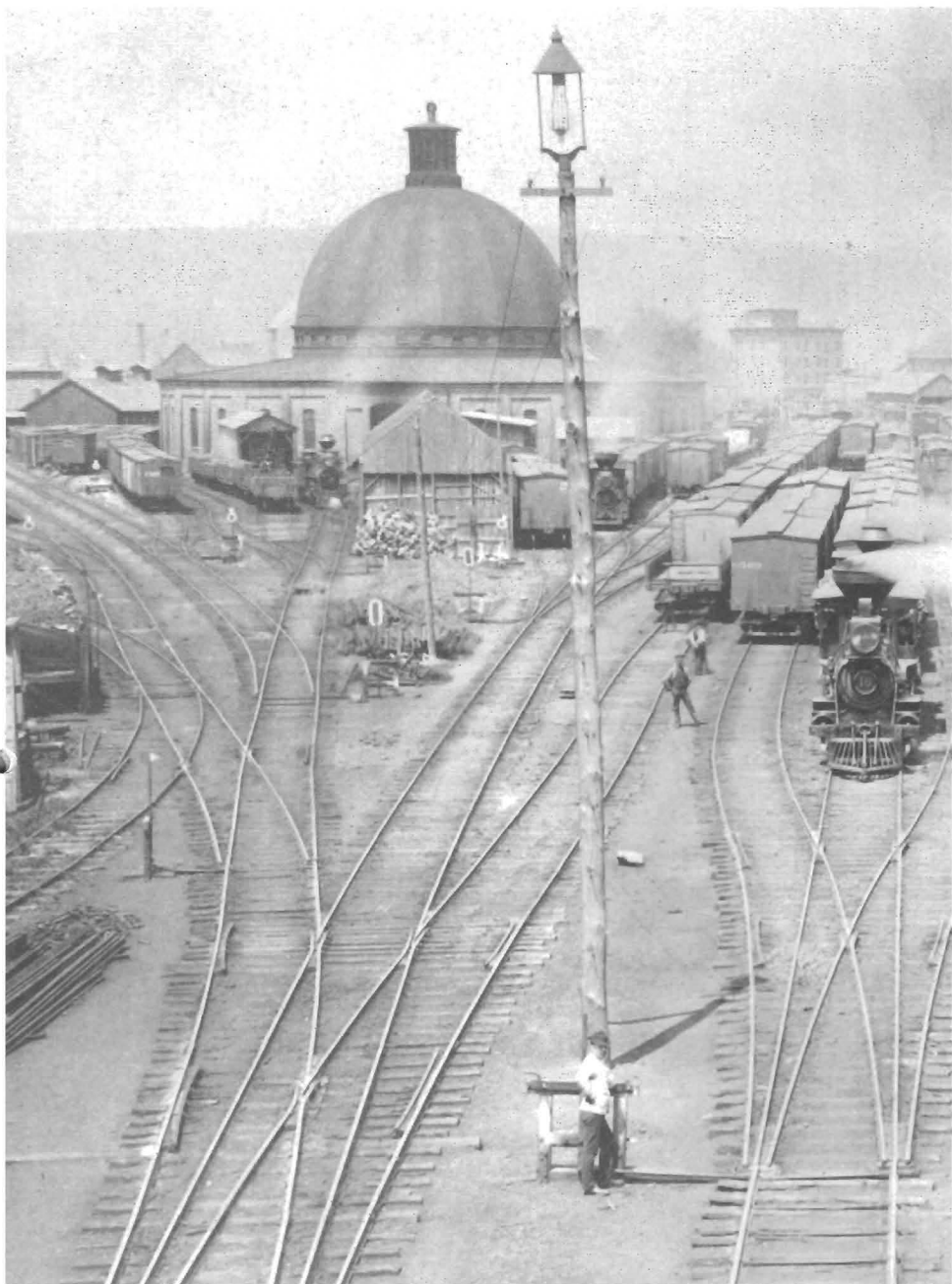
WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

						1
2	3	4	5 Hanukkah	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 New Year's Eve	Christmas Day				



The second Rutland roundhouse was built in 1864 after the first was destroyed by fire. The second was demolished in 1899 to make room for a more modern roundhouse.

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